

Appl. No. 10/001,295
Response dated September 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-21 are pending and stand rejected on varying grounds under §102(e) and 103(a).

In view of the comments below, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application including claims 1-21 and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

a) Claims 1-9, 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fraccaroli (US Patent No. 6549768).

Claims 1 and 19 are in independent form with claims 8-9 dependent on claim 1.

The present invention concerns methods and apparatus for providing subscriber services based geographic zone specific subscriber parameters. The processes recited by the method of claim 1 and analogous features recited by other claims facilitate providing services to the subscriber, based on both the network wide and zone-specific subscription parameters.

Claim 1 (paraphrasing) recites:

defining a plurality of zones in a wireless network coverage area,
assigning a dynamic subscriber group number to each of these zones,
maintaining a static and a dynamic database containing, respectively, network wide subscriber subscription parameters and zone-specific subscriber subscription parameters, and
requiring a subscriber to register and provide the dynamic subscriber group number when the subscriber enters into one of the zones.

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Fraccaroli discusses a different concern, albeit using at least in part location information. Fraccaroli discusses an approach for notifying two subscribers with similar profiles when they are geographically near one another. However, when compared to the claimed invention, Fraccaroli uses a distinctly different approach or model to provide this service to subscribers.

For example, (see abstract) while Fraccaroli appears to store profiles corresponding to users (presumably subscribers) together with the respective users ID (phone number) there is nothing indicating these profiles are zone-specific, i.e., there is nothing showing or suggesting the claimed maintaining dynamic network subscriber group database containing zone-specific network subscriber subscription parameters. Furthermore there is nothing in Fraccaroli that even alludes to requiring a network subscriber, upon registration after entry into one of the zones, to provide the dynamic subscriber group number.

The Examiner alleges that Fraccaroli shows or suggests maintaining both a static network subscriber group database ... and a dynamic network subscriber group database containing zone-specific network subscriber subscription parameters (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 39-65). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that the cited passage of Fraccaroli describes the conventional HLR, VLR register maintenance schemes for tracking the network location of a mobile station (this is a dynamic database, i.e., one that varies with a location of mobile unit). However, nothing is said about maintaining a dynamic subscriber database containing zone-specific network subscriber subscription parameters. The only thing that changes with a zone change in terms of subscriber services is the zone. There is nothing about the services that are zone specific.

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The Examiner further alleges that Fraccaroli shows or suggests requiring a network subscriber to register and provide the dynamic network subscriber group number (col. 4, lines 51-65) when the network subscriber enters into one of the plurality of zones-within the wireless network coverage area to thereby identify a location of the network subscriber as being within the one of the plurality of zones within the network coverage area and to consequently provide services to the network subscriber based on the static and dynamic network subscriber group (col.4, lines 51- 65) subscription parameters associated with the network subscriber (fig.1, col. 4, line 23 to col.5, line 36). Applicant again respectfully disagrees. The cited passage indicates that the mobile unit sends a location updating request responsive to observing (group identifier indicated to mobile station by base station, col. 4, lines 40-42) that a zone change has occurred. This request results in updating the location of the mobile unit in the HLR or VLR registers. Nothing is said about providing the group number corresponding to a particular zone.

Similarly with reference to claim 19, Fraccaroli does not show or suggest as claimed, the network service provider maintaining a dynamic database containing zone-specific network subscriber subscription parameters or such provider providing services to a subscriber based on the corresponding dynamic network subscriber group subscription parameters.

Thus and at least in view of these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Fraccaroli does not show or suggest all features of either claim 1 or claim 19 and therefore Fraccaroli does not anticipate either of these claims or claims dependent on either of these claims. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection of claims 1-9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Fraccaroli (US Patent No. 6549768).

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b) Claims 11-18, 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraccaroli in view of Slettengren et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0028674).

Claim 11 is in independent form with claims 12-18 dependent thereon. Claims 20-21 depend on claim 19.

As noted above, Applicant does not believe that a good faith construction of Fraccaroli shows or suggest maintaining a database containing zone-specific subscriber subscription parameters or requiring a subscriber to provide a dynamic network subscriber group number when the subscriber enters one of a plurality of zones. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that these features are not shown or suggested by Slettengren et al whether taken alone or together with Fraccaroli. Claim 11 recites these features.

Thus, at least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of references does not show or suggest all limitations of claim 11 or claim 19 or claims that are dependent on either claim 11 or 19. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection of claims 11-18, 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Fraccaroli in view of Slettengren et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0028674).

c) Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraccaroli in view of Bantz (US Patent No. 5519706).

Claim 20 depends on claim 19. As noted above, claim 19 is believed to be clearly allowable over Fraccaroli. Bantz does not provide the teachings that are missing from Fraccaroli and thus claim 19 should be deemed allowable over this combination of references. At least by virtue of dependency, claim 20 should likewise be allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully

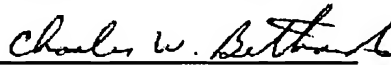
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requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Fraccaroli in view of Bantz (US Patent No. 5519706).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as originally filed, clearly and patentably distinguish over the cited references of record and as such are to be deemed allowable. Such allowance is hereby earnestly and respectfully solicited at an early date. If the Examiner has any suggestions or comments or questions, calls are welcomed at the phone number below.

Although it is not anticipated that any fees are due or payable since this response is being timely filed on the first business day after lapse of the allowed time period, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3435.

Respectfully submitted,


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